



State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Mount Zion Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 4, 9, & 10, T6N, R12E MDBM	COUNTY	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Steve DeBenedet	PHONE	(209) 267-5229
ADDRESS	11600 State Highway 49 Sutter Creek, CA 95685		

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The intent of this project is to maintain the existing fuel break and trail system currently established within Mount Zion State Forest. The current fuel break is located along the major ridges and around the perimeter within the project property. Approximately 3 miles of hiking trails exist within the project property near and around the ridges and along the South Fork of Jackson Creek. Both the current fuel break and trail system is currently being overgrown with brush. This project entails the cutting of brush and small trees that have recently grown into these areas and disposing of the vegetation by piling and burning. All work is to be done using hand tools, including chainsaws. The fuel break and trail areas will be treated on an annual basis in order to maintain the effectiveness of both these land use elements. Project activities are expected to take place annually between late fall and spring months.

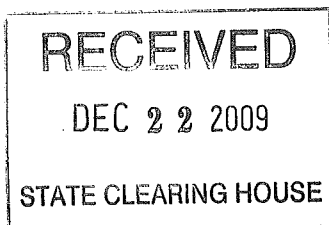
### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 and 4 §§15301/15304 Existing Facilities/Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the Class 1 and Class 4 Categorical Exemptions as it proposes maintenance of existing facilities and will result in only minor alterations to the land and will not have a significant effect on the environment. The project is intended to remove understory vegetation in order to maintain existing fuel breaks and trails within the Mount Zion State Forest. Only minimal vegetative and soil disturbance will result. A limited environmental impact analysis was completed to ensure use of a categorical exemption is appropriate. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), and Amador County were notified during the preparation of this project in order to seek input on potential environmental impacts that may result from this project. The California Natural Diversity Database was reviewed and a DFG botanist visited the project area. The CAL FIRE Archaeology Program was consulted in reviewing the project area for potential impacts to cultural resources. Based on all research and consultation, coupled with the proposed project activities, the project will not result in potentially significant environmental impacts to natural or cultural resources, including the taking of rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals or species of special concern.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



  
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director  
12/22/09  
Date